

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL  
PROCUREMENT, SUCH AS VIA AN ELECTRONIC REVERSE AUCTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for providing procurement, such as international procurement via an electronic reverse auction system, provides several components. Once the need to procure a new item (or service) is identified, a global commodity leader is notified to help identify leveraging across a large business organization. Substantially in parallel, suppliers for participating in a reverse auction are identified, a qualification plan for qualifying suppliers and items to be procured is established, and an electronic request for quotations ("RFQ") is generated. Following completion of these tasks, the electronic RFQ is provided to identified suppliers under an auction and results received within a time limit established for the auction. The winning supplier is identified and feedback is provided to the winning supplier, as well as to other suppliers, to provide, for example, a smooth, beneficial and amicable transition between an existing supplier and a new supplier, if necessary. Purchase orders are placed with a new supplier, if necessary, to procure one or more items for testing, and qualification testing begins. Once qualification testing ends, purchase orders are placed with the supplier to procure the desired items. Purchase orders may be generated before implementing the auction to facilitate the placement of a purchase order once a winning supplier is identified. Some or all steps in the process are performed electronically, or with electronic forms (*e.g.*, Web-based forms), to eliminate bottlenecks and streamline the procurement process.